

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-08 IO-13 /092 W

-----024917 290406Z /61

R 281830Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1910

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 5233

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. FOREIGN MINISTER INVITED ME TO HIS OFFICE DECEMBER 27 TO DISCUSS STATEMENTS ALLEGEDLY MADE BY US REPRESENTATIVE TO IDB, RALPH DUNGAN: THE FIRST RELATED TO THE JACK ANDERSON COLUMN ON CHILD ABUSE IN PARAGUAY AND THE NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO REFUTE THESE STATEMENTS BEFORE PRESENTING ANY MORE REQUESTS FOR LOANS; THE SECOND HAD TO DO WITH PARAGUAY'S NEWFOUND PROSPERITY WHICH MIGHT MAKE IT INELIGIBLE FOR FURTHER SOFT LOANS.

2. I REPLIED THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT COULD REFUTE ANDERSON'S COLUMN THAT IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE WELL ADVISED TO DO SO BUT THAT I DID NOT THINK THERE SHOULD EXIST ANY DIRECT CORRELATION BETWEEN THE CHARGES OF A JOURNALIST AND THE RESPONSE OF THE USG TO LOAN PRESENTATIONS. SECONDLY, I SAID PRAGAUAY INDEED MIGHT HAVE A PROBLEM REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR SOFT LOANS BUT THAT IF WE COULD IMPROVE THE RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS WE COULD THEN BEGIN TO TREAT THIS PROBLEM IN THE TECHNICAL CONTEXT WHERE IT BELONGS AND WHERE THERE WERE GOOD CHANCES OF SUCCESS. THE  
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FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED AND POINTED OUT THAT BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND CHILE ALL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SOFT LOANS.

3. WHEN THE MINISTER BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF A DATE FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC) VISIT AND PRESIDNET STROESSNER'S DIRECTIVE

NOT TO SET A DATE FOR THE VISIT UNTIL AFTER THE  
FEBRUARY 12 ELECTIONS, I MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS  
TO NOGUES.

4. THE GOP WAS GIVING WASHINGTON THE IMPRESSION  
THAT IT WAS PLAYING WITH THE DATES OF THE VISIT IN  
THE HOPE OF AVOIDING AN IAHRG VISIT ALTOGETHER.  
IT WAS HARD FOR ANY KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVER TO BELIEVE  
THAT THERE WAS ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE  
FEBRUARY 12 ELECTIONS AND THAT IT APPEARED TO US THAT  
THE CRUCIAL DATE WAS MORE LIKELY IN EARLY JUNE WHEN  
THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD MEET TO CONSIDER,  
INTER ALIA, THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS IN VARIOUS  
COUNTRIES. BOTH PARAGUAY AND THE US KNOW THAT  
THE IAHRG WANTS TO VISIT PARAGUAY IN MARCH IN ORDER  
THAT IT CAN COMPLETE ITS REPORT IN TIME FOR THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IF PARAGUAY CONTINUES ITS DILATORY  
TACTICS THE COMMISSION COULD PUBLISH ITS REPORT WITH-  
OUT THE BENEFIT OF AN ON-SITE VISIT. IN THIS CASE  
PARAGUAY MIGHT FEEL IT HAD A LOGICAL PRETEXT TO STATE THAT  
THERE WAS NO LONGER A NECESSITY FOR A VISIT. SUPERFICIAL  
DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERING SUCH AS THIS WAS NO WAY TO  
TREAT A SERIOUS PROBLEM. THE IMPORTANT POINT FOR  
THE GOP TO REMEMBER WAS THAT PRESIDENT STROESSNER HAD  
MADE A COMMITMENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND IF PARAGUAY  
WRIGGLED OUT OF THAT COMMITMENT THEY WOULD FACE A  
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STONE WALL IN TRYING TO GET FURTHER CREDITS.

5. NOGUES TOOK CLOSE NOTES AND WHILE HE LOOKED  
DISAPPROVING AT TIMES, HE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO REFUTE  
MY VERSION OF THE PARAGUAYAN SCENARIO. I BELIEVE  
THAT PUTTING PARAGUAY ON NOTICE WILL IMPRESS UPON  
THIS GOVERNMENT THAT WE KNOW PERFECTLY WELL WHAT  
THEY ARE UP TO AND THAT IT IS A NO-WIN GAME.  
WHITE

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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